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29 October 1963



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Pakistan-India: Mutual recriminations between Pakistan and India are increasing tensions along the cease-fire line in Kashmir.

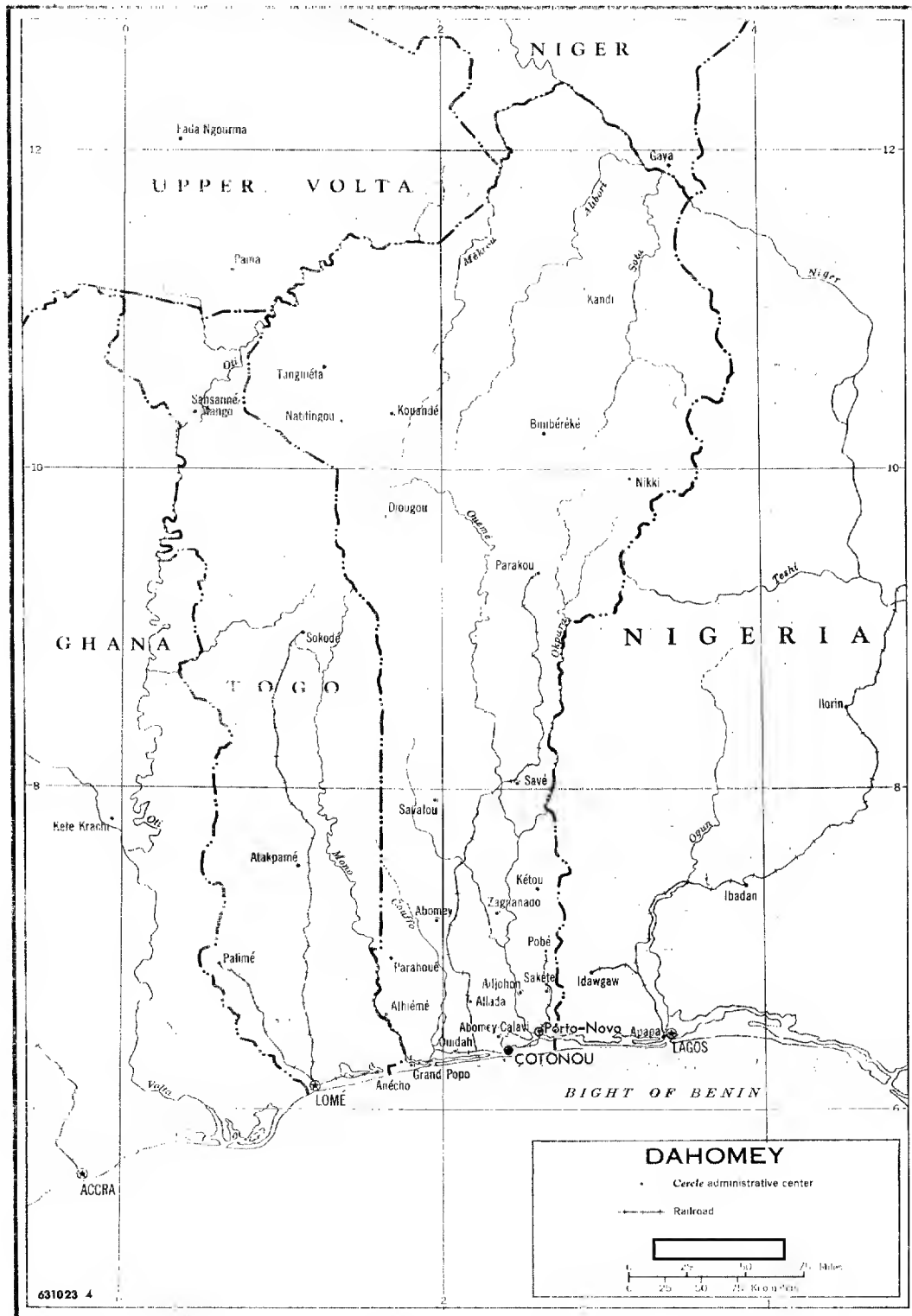
Officials of each government now claim to have firm intelligence that the other side is strengthening its forces along the line. UN observers in the area are checking these reports but no assessment is available yet.

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[redacted] Pakistani military leaders are again giving some consideration to limited paramilitary action against the Indian-held portion of Kashmir. Such reports cannot be entirely discounted in view of the fear in Karachi that time is against Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and the recent aggravating Indian-Kashmir proposals for fuller integration of the Indian portion of the disputed territory.

The Ayub regime will continue to be cautious, however, because the possible political consequences and its concern that local clashes might escalate into a broader military confrontation in which India would enjoy a military superiority.

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*Dahomey: A four-man provisional government, led by Army Chief of Staff Soglo, assumed power on 28 October following ex-president Maga's resignation.

Soglo has taken over the key ministries of Defense, Interior, Security, and Information, with the other functions of the government divided among Maga, ex-vice president Apithy, and a former National Assembly president Ahomadegbe. There is no indication of the intended duration of the provisional government.

A three-man provisional government led by Maga and including Apithy and Ahomadegbe, which had been formed on 27 October, was dissolved on 28 October because of continued pressures from trade unions demanding Maga's resignation. The inclusion of Maga as a minister in the new provisional government reflects a fear on the part of the military leaders that the removal of Maga--the political spokesman for northern tribesmen--would aggravate the north-south split which exists in Dahomey. Apithy and Ahomadegbe, leaders of the two rival southern factions in Dahomey's long-standing, three-cornered power struggle, also appear to favor Maga's retention as a minister in the provisional government.

An unfavorable reaction on the part of the unionists to Maga's retention in the new provisional government will increase the possibility of civil disorder arising from the north-south split.

There are now indications that even the military leaders are beginning to divide on regional lines. The possibility of a north-south split among army leaders would greatly increase the threat of civil disorder.

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Common Market: (France is trying to enlist US support in pressing West Germany to agree on a relatively low EEC support price for grain.)

(According to a ranking French official, all the EEC countries except Germany are prepared to accept a low wheat price. In making an appeal for US assistance in the effort to get Bonn to give way, he held out the possibility that a world-wide trade agreement on grains could be concluded by the end of 1964.)

(Paris, which expects major economic benefits from EEC agricultural integration, has long recognized that agreement on a common price for grains is the key question involved. Because of growing inflation, however, it is increasingly reluctant to compromise on a level higher than the present French price.)

(French willingness to proceed with talks on grain in the context of the "Kennedy Round" contrasts with, but is not necessarily in contradiction to, Paris' foot-dragging on other aspects of the forthcoming tariff negotiations--notably, the rules for reducing world-wide tariffs on industrial items.)

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Brazil: The troubled Brazilian labor situation may soon take a turn for the worse.

The Joint Action Pact (PAC), a newly formed alliance of some 80 Communist-oriented labor unions in Sao Paulo, is threatening to call a general strike there this week if its wage and other demands are not met. Leaders of Brazil's largest labor confederation, the Communist-controlled National Confederation of Industrial Workers, are supporting the PAC and have announced they are prepared to order a nationwide sympathy strike.

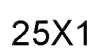
The US consul in Sao Paulo believes that the PAC is capable of closing down some local factories, but not of inducing complete industrial paralysis. He also feels that the state government, backed by the Second Army, can control the situation. In any event, the prospect of federal intervention looms in the background should the situation get out of hand.

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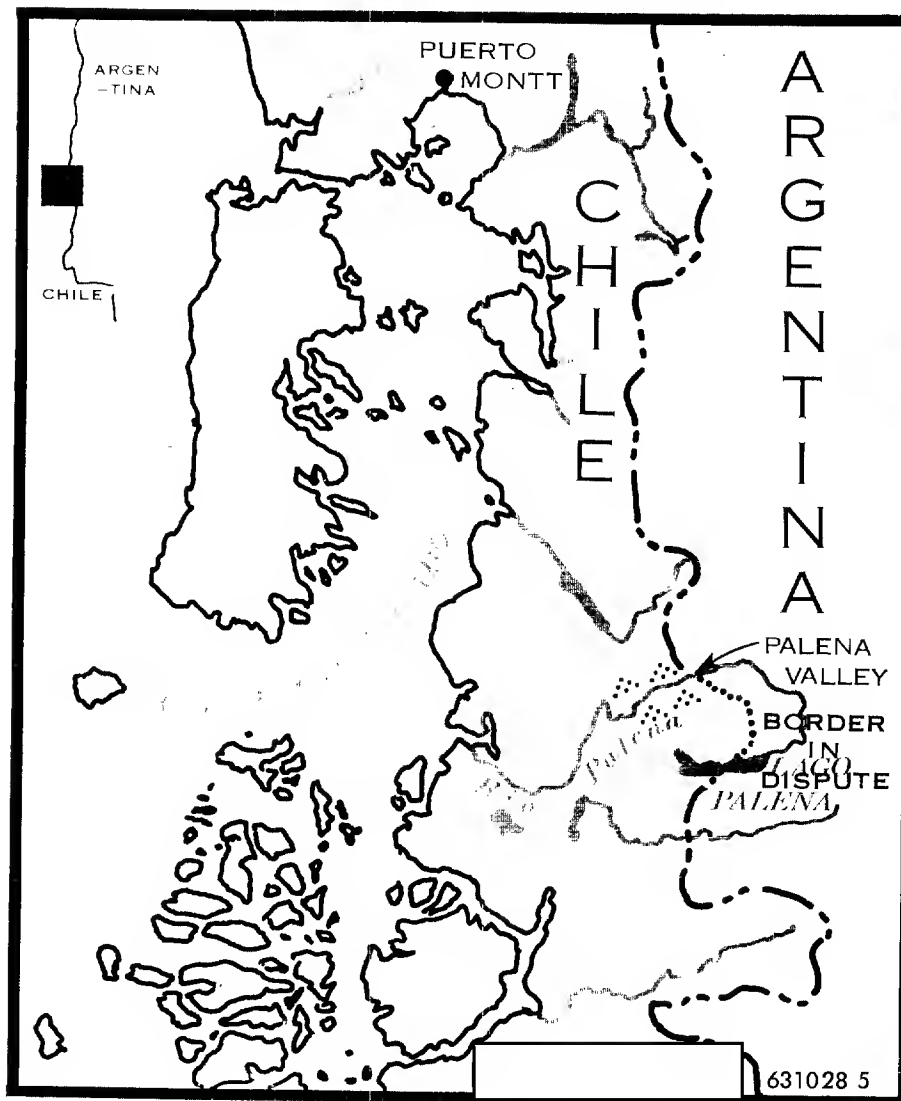
India: (New Delhi reportedly is planning before the end of 1963 to deploy two regular army divisions in the Northeast Frontier Agency (NEFA), which has been unoccupied since the Chinese withdrawal last winter. These divisions, now stationed in the Assam valley, are to be replaced by two newly raised divisions. It is not clear how close to the McMahon Line the Indians plan to take up positions, but they will probably move cautiously to avoid triggering a Chinese military reaction.)

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Communist China: Foreign Minister Chen I is reported to have told a visiting group of Japanese newsmen on 28 October that it may be "several years" before China can test its first nuclear device, and it might take "many more years" before China could mass-produce atomic bombs or acquire a sophisticated delivery capability. Previous reports that Chen I had privately predicted a nuclear test before the end of 1963 now appear to have been inaccurate. The new statement is consistent with the current US estimate that China probably could not detonate its first nuclear device before 1964, with 1965 or 1966 being more likely.

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PALENA AREA



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Chile-Argentina: Mounting Chilean resentment over an Argentine incursion in the Palena region of southern Chile is threatening to rekindle an old border dispute. Despite the fact the situation is not viewed as serious in Argentina, the Chilean Air Force is already flying reconnaissance missions over the area and the local garrison reportedly has been reinforced. Also, the US Army mission in Santiago has been questioned regarding restrictions which might apply to the use of a MAP-supported engineer unit in Palena.

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